



Alternative Basic Education for Pastoralists (ABE)

Valerie Sara Price/UNICEF



Pastoralist children learning to read using ABE distributed literacy materials.

Funding Level:
\$10 million

Duration:
September 2015 – September 2020

Activity Goals:

- Increase enrollment and retention of school age children from target groups.
- Enhance capacity of government to develop and implement a non-formal education policy and strategy.
- Strengthen capacity of community groups to support education programs.
- Increase support for education among parents, elders, and religious leaders.
- Improve reading outcomes.
- Improve professional development and performance of teachers.

Activity Accomplishments:

- Providing non-formal alternative basic education to 93 drought displaced communities in Jubaland and South West States
- Over 16,000 students enrolled
- 93 ABE Centers established
- 146 temporary classrooms set-up
- 35 gender-sensitive twin latrines built
- 371 ABE community teachers recruited

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

The Alternative Basic Education for Pastoralists (ABE) activity aims to expand the provision of education services and improve development and stability in target areas in Somalia. ABE seeks to improve access to equitable, quality education for pastoralists and other marginalized children in the Jubaland State of Somalia – an area of critical need. The target groups for ABE programs are children and youth (6 to 14 years old) who have been disconnected from school for significant periods of time or have never been to school.

More than two decades of conflict have nearly destroyed Somalia's educational system, which is characterized by poor quality, insufficient numbers of qualified teachers, and inadequate resources. The educational deficit in Somalia is one of the most acute in the world. Of the total 4.7 million school-aged population (12.3m total Somali population), 972,000 children or one out of every five Somali student-aged child is displaced. Specifically, in the months of November 2016 to August 2017, close to 50,000 children lost the opportunity to go to school due to displacement.

Somalia's pastoralist communities – which account for nearly 60% of Somalia's population – face further impediments to education as communities move with their children and livestock in search of water and pasture, making education in normal, static schools impractical and often impossible.

Because of this deficit, youth miss out on critical services, face limited economic opportunities, and become increasingly vulnerable to recruitment by extremists and/or criminal elements.

ACTIVITY AREAS

ABE supports alternative basic education for pastoralists and IDPs through a combination of approaches tailored to the way of life of targeted communities: a flexible calendar and timetables, temporary learning spaces along migration paths, mobile libraries, and complementary interactive audio instruction. A specific curriculum for basic education is being delivered in an accelerated format - condensing grades one to eight into five years through a flexible timetable.

ABE is strengthening a cadre of teachers through specialized training, which can adapt to the unique learning needs of students in nomadic communities and the displaced who are living in IDP camps. Through collective social mobilization activities, ABE is working with community groups to support education programs and increase engagement among parents, elders, and religious leaders.

ABE is also supporting the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) in developing a robust Strategy for Non- Formal Education based on the evidence gathered through this initiative.

Implementing Partner: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Key Partners:

Federal Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education
Jubaland and South West Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education
Himilo Relief and Development Association
Africa Educational Trust (AET)

Activity Locations:

Baidoa (Bay) in South West State
Gedo region in Jubaland State

ACTIVITY IMPACT

ABE is providing non-formal alternative basic education to communities in Baidoa (Bay) in South West State and Gedo in Jubaland State; communities that are critically affected by the drought and have limited to no opportunity to access education. 93 ABE Centers have already been constructed. These centers have temporary classrooms and separate latrines for girls and boys, providing girls with gender-sensitive facilities and safe spaces to increase girls' enrollment. Over 16,000 pastoralist children are now actively enrolled, and the numbers are increasing daily. The classrooms have been equipped with educational supplies including teaching and learning materials, chalkboards and desks, and sports and play equipment. 371 teachers have been recruited and are undergoing in-service training.

Social mobilization campaigns are underway to encourage parents to bring their children to school and actively participate in their education. These campaigns also encourage community members to help identify other out-of-school children in their communities and help them get support to access education.

Communities are currently participating in the development of literacy materials by providing traditional Somali stories, which will be included in learning materials that promote positive and culturally-inclusive messages.

NEXT STEPS

- Engagement of approximately 21,000 pastoralist children and other out-of-school children within the targeted communities
- Contribution to the first Somali national workshop on learning assessment and EGRA, planned for February 2018

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